



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Buenos Aires, Argentina

11/100 Subj

CW 002

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[REDACTED]

December 5, 1980

Mr. Gerald Whitman
Country Officer for Argentina
ARA/SC Room 4908
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full

(☐) Classify as ☐ (☐) Extend as ☐ (☐) Downgrade to ☐

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐

Dear Jerry:

I am sending the following information by letter rather than by cable for reasons which will be clear as you read.

As you know, Thelma Jara de Cabezas is one of the most prominent of the disappeared. A member of the Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo, Mrs. Cabezas disappeared in April, 1979. On two subsequent occasions she sort of reappeared. First, a letter she allegedly wrote and mailed in Sao Paulo found its way to the press in May, 1979. Then in August, 1979 the Moonie newspaper in New York ran an interview with her allegedly conducted in Uruguay. In both she made the same claim -- she had broken with Montoneros who had exploited her human rights activities to attack the GOA and now was on the run from her former comrades who were out to kill her. At the time these statements appeared the Embassy was skeptical about them. We felt the little information we possessed that suggested she was a prisoner of the Navy being held somewhere in Argentina was the truth -- especially as she reportedly was one of the communicating disappeared, at least until August, 1979.

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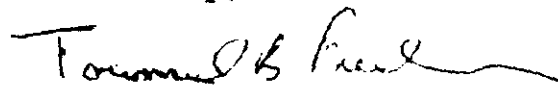
Well, Mrs. Cabezas is alive and living in Buenos Aires. The information comes from a colleague in the German Embassy who has spoken to her. The Germans became involved when Jara de Cabezas' son, Daniel Cabezas, was arrested last August along with his common-law wife, Nora Inez Hilb, who is a German-Argentine national. The couple was living here clandestinely as a Montonero agitation team.* The Germans heard from the family that Mrs. Cabezas was here and asked if she would come in for a chat. To their surprise, she did.

She did not say much, however. She implied strongly that she had been a prisoner of the Navy. She revealed nothing about where she had been held or when she was released. She did say that the terms of her release included a commitment to break off all contact with the Mothers and human rights groups. She also made it very clear that her former captors had a very powerful leverage on her and she would not risk angering them. The Germans think it may be that they are holding her son who, though an acknowledged arrestee, could meet with an accident. She did say that she did not think that she was risking anything by having a quiet non-publicized contact with the Germans.



Please share this letter with HA and anybody else in ARA who should know. But for obvious reasons, I did not want this information rattling around the building in a cable, no matter how restricted.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Townsend B. Friedman
Political Officer

Cleared: POL:JFKing 
Ambassador Shlaudeman 

*See Buenos Aires 8004 and 7831.

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